

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 TEL AV 00793 310812Z

12

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

SAM-01 IO-11 ACDA-05 SCCT-01 SAB-01 /077 W

----- 121718

R 301542Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9986

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 0793

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, LE

SUBJECT: ISRAELI VIEW OF LEBANESE SITUATION

1. ISRAELI OFFICIALS AND POLITICAL/MILITARY OBSERVERS
REMAIN CONCERNED ABOUT IMPLICATIONS OF LEBANESE CRISIS
FOR ISRAEL, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON THE SITUATION
ON LEBANON-ISRAELI BORDER. GOI CONTINUES TO EXERCISE
RESTRAINT WHILE VIEWING SYRIAN/PLA ROLE IN LEBANON AS DEFACTO
ESTABLISHMENT OF SYRIAN PROTECTORATE, ISRAELIS BELIEVE THAT, AT
LEAST IN SHORT TERM, SEVERE CONSTRAINTS ALSO APPLY TO SYRIA,
WHICH IS NEITHER INTERESTED IN ISRAELI INTERVENTION
IN LEBANON NOR ISRAELI-SYRIAN WAR.

2. CHIEF OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE GAZIT PROVIDED
MILITARY ATTACHE CORPS WITH IN-DEPTH BRIEFING JAN. 30
ON BACKGROUND AND EVOLUTION OF LEBANON CRISIS IN-
CLUDING PRE-PLA PHASE, SIGNIFICANCE AND NATURE OF
PLA INVOLVEMENT IN THE WAR, AND EVALUATION OF PRO-
SPECTS FOR CURRENT CEASE-FIRE (IR FOLLOWS).
DESCRIBING ISRAELI RESPONSE TO THESE DEVELOPMENTS,
CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEL AV 00793 310812Z

GAZIT SAID ISRAEL WOULD TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION BASED
ON PERCEIVED CHARACTER OF PLA DEPLOYMENT AND ACTIVITY,

SPECIFICALLY IN PROXIMITY OF ISRAELI-
LEBANESE BORDER. HE STATED THAT SYRIA, WHILE PRECLUDED
IN THE SHORT-TERM FROM ACHIEVING HER LONG-RANGE GOAL
OF INCORPORATING LEBANON INTO A GREATER SYRIAN FED-
ERATION, WAS PURSUING THAT END VIA THE PLA. SHORT TERM
PRIORITIES ARGUED AGAINST ANY DIRECT SYRIAN MILITARY
INVOLVEMENT IN LEBANON AT THIS TIME.

3. HAARETZ MILITARY CORRESPONDENT SCHIFF TOLD CHARGE'
JAN 29 THAT IDF WAS UNDER STRICT INSTRUCTIONS TO KEEP
SITUATION ON LEBANESE BORDER QUIET AND NOT TO ENGAGE
IN ANY ACTIONS WHICH MIGHT BE INTERPRETED AS BEGINNINGS
OF ISRAELI INTERVENTION IN LEBANON.

4. IN JANUARY 30 HAARETZ COMMENTARY SCHIFF NOTES
THAT UNFOLDING LEBANESE SITUATION HAS MADE IT VERY
DIFFICULT FOR ISRAELI LEADERSHIP TO DECIDE WHAT WOULD
CONSTITUTE A CASUS BELLI. INSTEAD OF CLEAR-CUT PROCESS
OF INTERVENTION, BY SYRIAN ARMY, ISRAEL IS WITNESSING
STEP-BY-STEP COLLAPSE OF LEBANON AND CREATION OF
VACUUM IN THE SOUTH. ISRAELI DECLARATIONS OF WHAT
WOULD COMMIT IT TO ACTION HAVE BEEN "HIGHLY SUPER-
FICIAL". IN PRACTICE, HOWEVER, ISRAEL HAS STOOD ON
SIDELINES AND LET DEVELOPMENTS TAKE THEIR COURSE
WITHOUT ISRAELI INTERVENTION. RABIN AND PERES BELIEVE
THAT ISRAEL SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON ITSELF, SAVE ITS
STRENGTH AND ONLY ACT WHEN THERE IS AN IMMEDIATE
DIRECT BLOW. TWO OTHER APPROACHES ARE DISCERNIBLE
IN ISRAELI THINKING: A) SOME RIGHT-WING
OPPONENTS OF POST 1973 POLITICAL AGREEMENTS CALL FOR
INTERVENTION IN LEBANON USING PLA ENTRY THERE AS
JUSTIFICATION TO OPERATE ON BROAD SCALE; A VARIATION
ON THIS REGARDS CURRENT LEBANESE SITUATION AS OPPORTUNITY
FOR ISRAEL TO MOVE AGAINST TERRORISTS, B) A COMPLETELY
DIFFERENT VIEW HOLDS THAT PALESTINIAN CONTROL OF SOUTHERN
LEBANON DOES NOT NECESSARILY HAVE TO BE MATTER OF CON-
CERN TO ISRAELIS SINCE IT WILL LEAD TO A KIND OF
"PALESTINIAN NATIONAL HOME". WHILE NOT ENDING PALESTINIAN
ASPIRATION TO RETURN TO ISRAEL, THIS AT LEAST WILL
CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TEL AV 00793 310812Z

MEAN THAT STURGGLE NO LONGER IS WITH PEOPLE LACKING ITS
OWN COUNTRY. SUCH DIFFERENT VIEWS, SCHIFF CON-
CLUDES, ONLY UNDERSCORE PRESENT STATE OF CONFUSION
IN ISRAEL OVER LEBANESE SITUATION.
DUNNIGAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERVENTION, TRANSPORTATION, AGREEMENTS, CIVIL DISORDERS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TELAV00793
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760037-0739
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976013/aaaaabsy.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <04 OCT 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ISRAELI VIEW OF LEBANESE SITUATION
TAGS: PFOR, IS, LE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006